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(71) Applicant(s)

Motorola Inc

(Incorporated in USA - Delaware)

1303 East Algonquin Road, Schaumburg,
Illinois 60196, United States of America

(72) Inventor(s)

Shirang Nikanth Jambhekar
Daniel Lawrence Williams

(74) Agent and/or Address for Service

Sarah J Spaulding
Motorola Limited, European Intellectual Property
Operation, Midpoint, Alencon Link, BASINGSTOKE,
Hampshire, RG21 7PL, United Kingdom

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(58) Field of Search

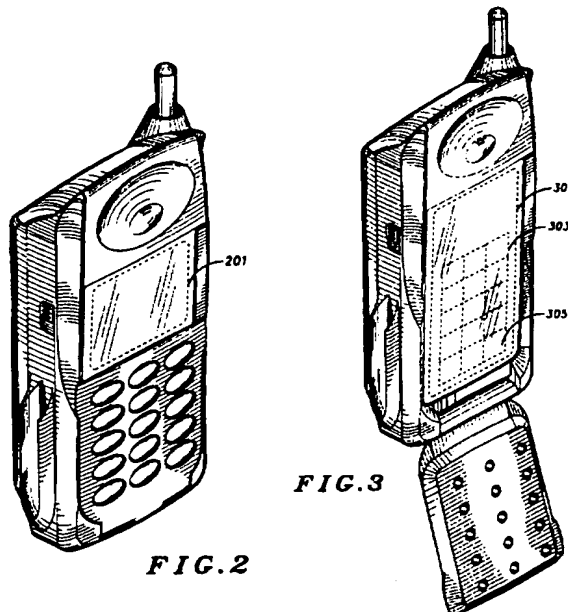
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H4L LECX

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(54) Radio communication device with moveable housing element and touch screen

(57) A radio communication device provides several radio communication services including radiotelephone service, electronic mail service, faxing service etc.... The radio communication device has a main body housing element and a moveable housing element and a touch screen display. In a closed position, the radio communication device has a first set of limited radiotelephone functions such as phone number input and sending and receiving phone calls. In an opened position, the radio communication device has a different set of user functions which include radiotelephone functions, advanced radiotelephone functions, and messaging functions. A provides a signal responsive to the moveable housing element moving to the open position thus switching the radio communication device between the first set of user functions and the second set of user functions.



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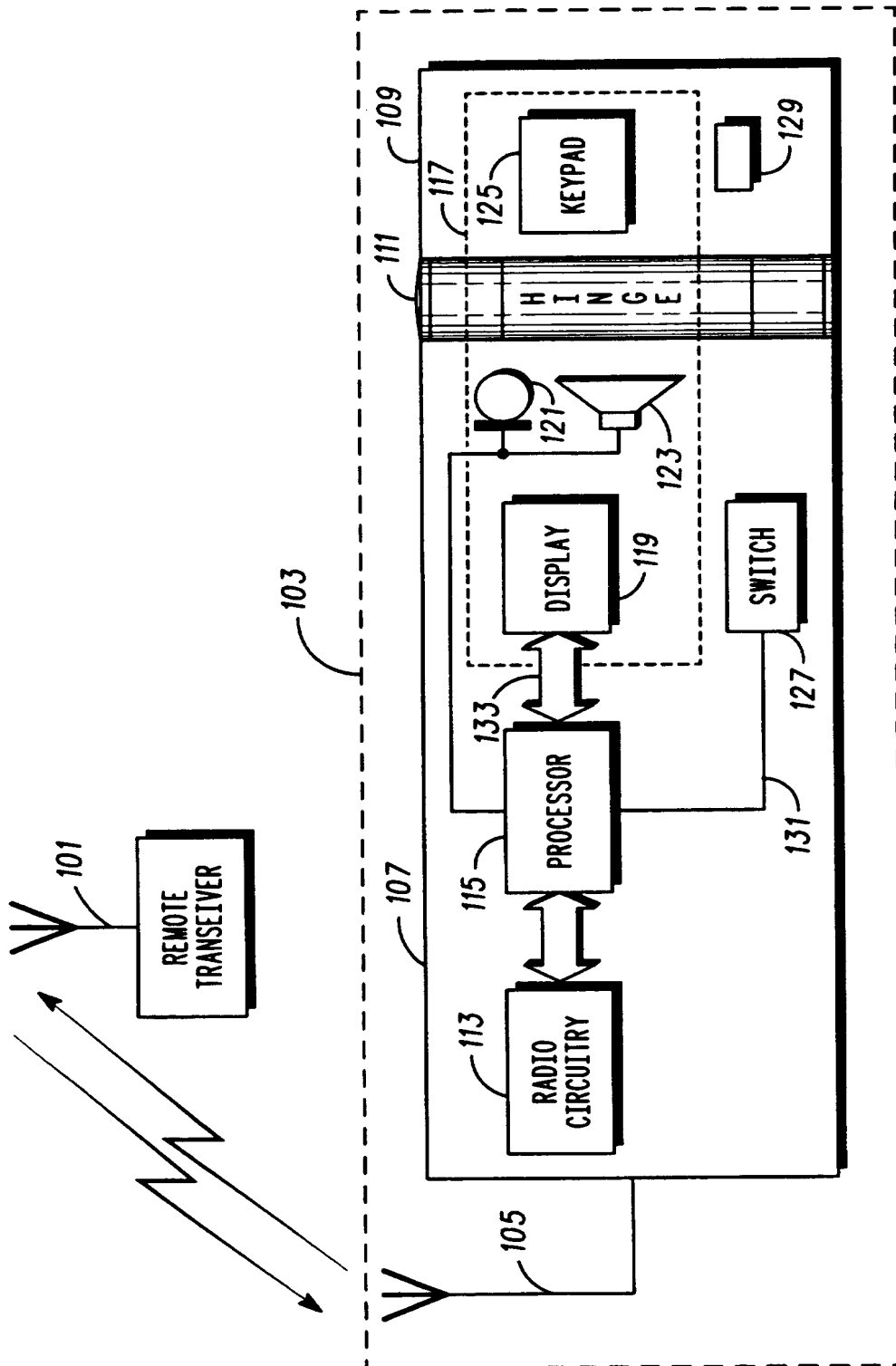


FIG. 1
100

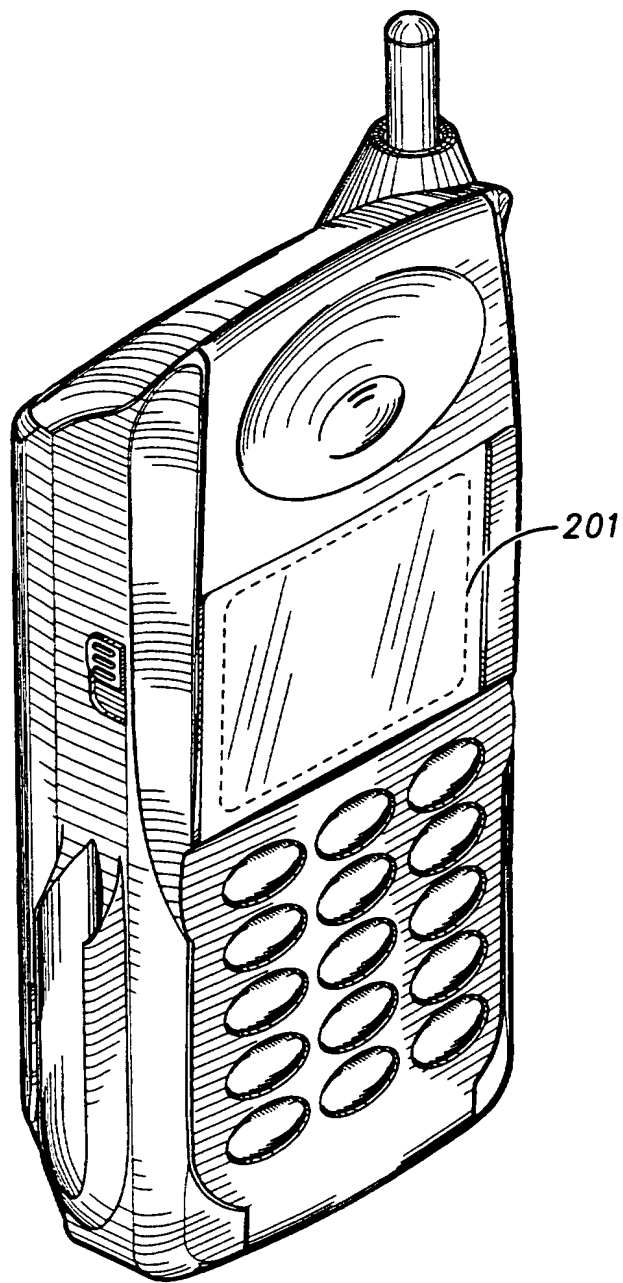


FIG. 2

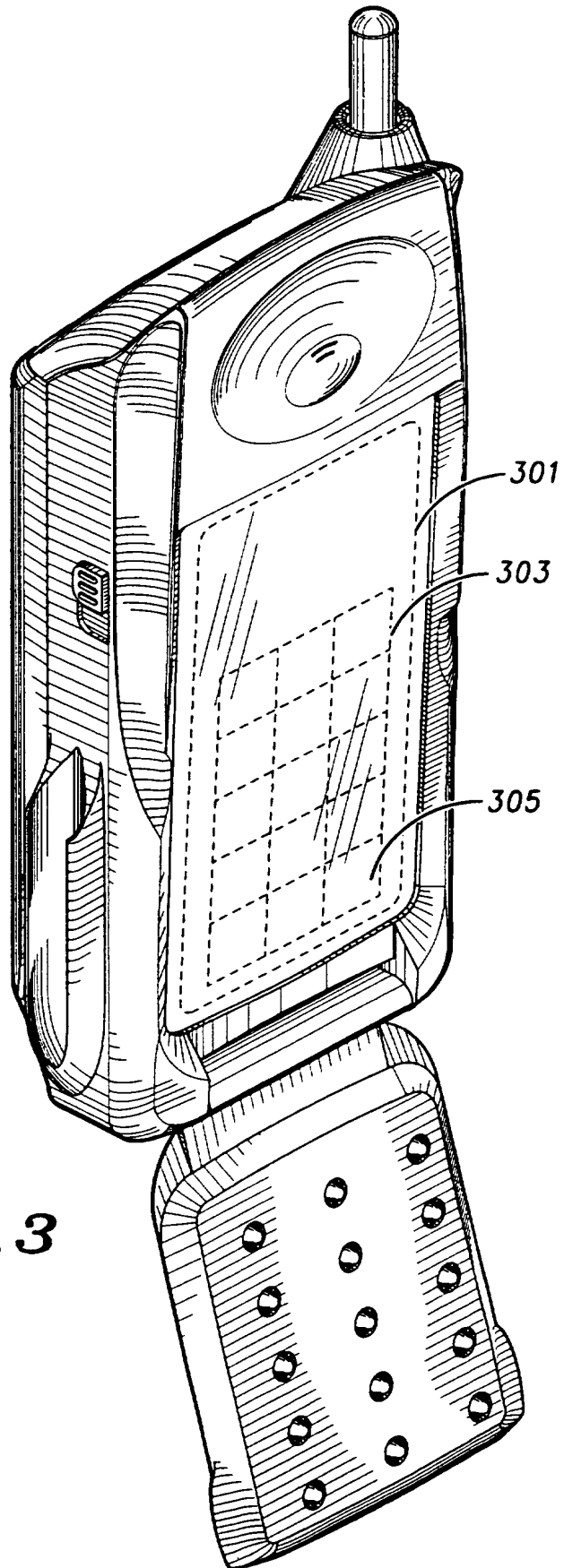


FIG. 3

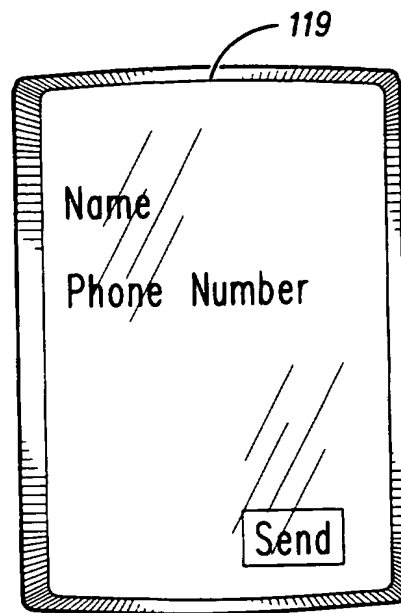


FIG. 4

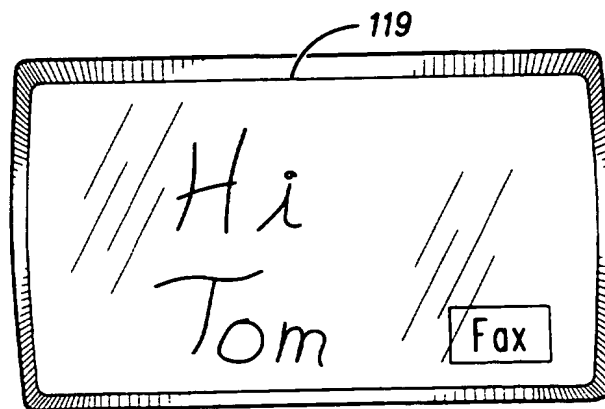


FIG. 5

RADIO COMMUNICATION DEVICE WITH MOVEABLE HOUSING ELEMENT CONTROL

Field of the Invention

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10 Generally, the present invention relates to controlling a communication device with a moveable housing element and more specifically to a radio communication device having two sets of user functions controlled with a moveable housing element.

Background of the Invention

15 Today, radio communication devices provide radio communication services such as two-way radio service, radiotelephone service, cellular phone service, cordless phone service and wireless data communication services such as wireless fax, electronic mail (e-mail), and short message service. These services are generally packaged
20 individually into a single radio communication service device, such as a traditional radiotelephone. By packaging these radio communication services as individual devices, a manufacturer can offer a portable or hand held radio communication device that is relatively easy to use.
25 However, there is increasing pressure in the marketplace to provide a multi-functional radio communication device that offers more than one of the typical radio communication services mentioned above. Attempting to combine such radio communication services into a single radio
30 communication device creates a cumbersome user interface

that is undesired by potential customers. A typical user interface includes a speaker, a microphone, a display and a data input device such as a keypad. For some radio communication services a small display and a small data
5 input area is required. For example, in a portable radiotelephone often there is a small display and a fixed data input keypad. On the other hand, a wireless data service such as e-mail requires extensive display of received messages as well as extensive user data input
10 from either a pen or a keyboard.

If a manufacturer was to provide an integrated product that combined a radiotelephone and an e-mail service, the simpler user interface of the radiotelephone service would be lost in the complex user interface
15 required for an e-mail service. Thus, it would be advantageous to provide an integrated data communication device wherein a user could easily identify the user interface of a first data service from a user interface of a second data service.

20

Brief Description of the Drawings

FIG. 1 is an illustration in blocked diagram form of a radio communication system in accordance with the
25 present invention.

FIG. 2 is a detailed illustration of a radio communication device in a closed position in accordance with the present invention.

FIG. 3 is a detailed illustration of a radio communication device in accordance with the present invention.

FIG. 4 is an illustration of a display in the portrait mode in accordance with the present invention.

FIG. 5 is an illustration of a display in the landscape mode in accordance with the present invention.

Detailed Description of a Preferred Embodiment.

An embodiment of the present invention encompasses a radio communication device having a main body housing element and a moveable housing element coupled thereto. The moveable housing element is moveable between an open or extended position and a closed position. The radio communication device includes radio circuitry, a touch screen display, and a switch. The moveable housing element covers a portion of the touch screen display when the moveable housing element is in a closed position. In the closed position, the radio communication device has a first set of user functions. The first set of user functions includes limited radiotelephone functions such as phone number input and sending and receiving phone calls. When the moveable housing element is in the open or extended position, the radio communication device has a second set of user functions which include radiotelephone functions, advanced radiotelephone functions, and messaging functions. The messaging functions include electronic mail, faxing, and

short message service. The radio communication device switch provides a signal to a radio communication device processor responsive to the moveable housing element moving to the open or extended position. Thus, switching
5 the radio communication device between a first set of user functions and the second set of user functions.

Figure 1 is an illustration in blocked diagram form of a radio communication system. The radio communication
10 system 100 includes a remote transceiver 101. In the radio communication system 100 the remote transceiver 101 sends and receives radio frequency (RF) signals to and from multiple radio communication devices within a fixed geographic area. The radio communication device 103 is
15 one such radio communication device contained within the geographic area served by the remote transceiver 101. The RF signals transmitted between the remote transceiver 101 and the radio communication device 103 provide radio communication services such as radiotelephone service,
20 electronic mail service, wireless fax service and short message service. Other equally sufficient embodiments of the present invention may include other combinations of these communication services and other radio communication services.

25 The radio communication device 103 includes an antenna 105, a main body housing element 107, a moveable housing element 109, and a hinge 111 for coupling the moveable housing element 109 to the main
30 body housing element 107. In the preferred embodiment,

the main body housing element 107 includes radio circuitry 113, a processor 115, and a portion of a user interface 117. The user interface 117 includes a display 119, a microphone 121, a speaker 123, and a keypad 125.

5 The display 119, the microphone 121, and the speaker 123 are disposed within the main body housing element 107. The keypad 125 is disposed within the moveable housing element 109 in the preferred embodiment. Additionally, the radio communication device 103 includes a switch 127

10 disposed within the main body housing element 107 and a switch activation device 129 disposed within the moveable housing element 109. It is anticipated that other equally sufficient embodiments of the present invention would include a radio communication device that equally disposed

15 components between a main body housing element and a moveable housing. Such an embodiment would dispose at least a portion of the radio circuitry within the main body housing element.

20 Upon reception of RF signals, the radio communication device 103 receives the RF signals through the antenna 105. The antenna 105 converts the received RF signals into electrical RF signals for use by the radio circuitry 113. The radio circuitry 113 demodulates the

25 electrical RF signals and recovers the data transmitted using the RF signals. Additionally, the radio circuitry 113 outputs the data to the processor 115. The processor 115 includes at least a main microprocessor such as an MC68040 available from Motorola, Inc., and associated

30 memory as well as other control circuits including

integrated circuits or other known technologies. The processor 115 formats the data output from the radio circuitry 113 into a recognizable voice or messaging information for use by the user interface 117. The user interface 117 communicates the received information or voice to a user through the use of the speaker 123 and the display 119.

Upon transmission of RF signals from the radio communication device 103 to the remote transceiver 101, the user interface 117 transmits user input data to the processor 115. Such data may include voice data and/or messaging information. The processor 115 formats the information obtained from the user interface 117 and transmits the formatted information to the radio circuitry 113. The radio circuitry 113 converts the formatted information into electrical RF modulated signals to the antenna 105 for transmission back to the remote transceiver 101.

In the preferred embodiment, the moveable housing element 109 has a first position and second position, also referred to as an open position and a closed position. FIG. 2 is a detailed illustration of the radio communication device 103 of FIG. 1 in the closed position. When the moveable housing element 109 is in the closed position, it covers a portion of the touch screen display 119 and the radio communication device 103 has a limited first set of user functions available. The limited set of user functions include only radiotelephone functions such as inputting

telephone numbers, initiating and ending telephone calls and recalling phone numbers from a memory. This limited set of user functions is related to the functions available on a low tier radiotelephone available today. In the closed position a portion of the touch screen display 119 is exposed to the user. This exposed portion contains a data display area 201 for displaying radiotelephone feedback such as a telephone number, a signal strength, a battery level, and roaming information. The information displayed in the data display area is oriented vertically, hereinafter referred to as a portrait mode, as illustrated in FIG. 4.

In the preferred embodiment, the moveable housing element 109 includes a keypad 125. The keypad 125 includes a plurality of individual keys including a limited number of function keys and a number pad containing individual keys numbered 0-9. Each individual key is disposed within the moveable housing element 109. Each key has a first portion of the key exposed on a first side of the moveable housing element 109 and a second portion of the key is exposed on a second side of the moveable housing element 109. The keys are arranged such that when the moveable housing element 109 is in the closed position, the plurality of keys are arranged adjacent to a user data area (not shown) of the touch screen display 119. The user data area of the touch screen display 119 is covered by the moveable housing element 109 and is divided up into multiple user data sub-areas which correspond to the plurality of keys of the keypad 125. When the first portion of a first key is depressed by a user, the second portion of the first key provides a pressure

against the touch screen display and activates a corresponding user data sub-area. This activation of the particular user data sub-area of the touch screen display 119 creates a corresponding signal that is sent back to the processor 115 to interpret the meaning of the activation. This signal is sent via the display bus 133.

FIG. 3 is a detailed illustration of the radio communication device 103 of FIG. 1 in the opened position. As the moveable housing element 109 is moved to the open or extended position the switch activation device 129 in conjunction with the switch 127 creates a mode change signal 131 that is sent to the processor 115, as illustrated in FIG. 1. The mode change signal 131 indicates to the processor 115 that the moveable housing element 109 is being opened and a second set of user functions becomes available to the user. In the preferred embodiment, the second set of user functions includes advanced radiotelephone control functions and messaging functions such as wireless faxing, electronic mail and short messaging service.

With the moveable housing element 109 in the open or extended position, the radio communication device 103 has a second set of user functions. This second set of user functions includes advanced radiotelephone control functions and messaging functions. The advanced radiotelephone functions include a menu for storing and recalling telephone numbers as well as programming the user's preferences for controlling the radiotelephone. All of

the radiotelephone control functions, including the advanced and the limited radiotelephone control functions, are displayed in a radiotelephone display configuration. This configuration includes orienting the display in the portrait mode as discussed above and illustrated in FIG. 4. All of the messaging functions including electronic mail, faxing and short message service are displayed in a messaging display configuration. This configuration includes orienting the display in the horizontal direction, hereinafter referred to as the landscape mode, as illustrated in FIG. 5. Additionally, when the moveable housing element 109 is in the opened position, the display arrangement for the touch screen display 119 is reconfigured. This reconfiguration includes increasing the data display area 301 to include the entire touch screen display 119 and it also changes the number of user data sub-areas 305 in the user data area 303. In the preferred embodiment the data display area 301 and the user data area 303 overlap each other when the moveable housing element 109 is in the extended or opened position.

Additionally, the radio communication device 103 performs additional functions responsive to the moveable housing element 109. Specifically, as the moveable housing element 109 moves from the closed position to the opened position, the radio communication device 103 can perform an off-hook function. As the moveable housing element 109 moves from the opened position to the closed position, the radio communication device 103 can perform an on-hook function. Furthermore, any other predetermined radio communication device control function can be

performed in response to moving the moveable housing element between the first position and the second position.

Alternatively, the first set of user functions may include exclusively radiotelephone control functions and the second set of user functions may include exclusively
5 messaging functions. In this alternative embodiment, when the moveable housing element 109 is in the closed position, the radio communication device 103 functions only as a radiotelephone. When the moveable housing
10 element 109 is in the open or extended position, the radio communication device 103 operates solely as a messaging communication system. Consequently, the touch screen display would be oriented in the portrait mode while the flip is closed and in response to moving the moveable
15 housing element 109 to the open position, the touch screen display 119 would be reconfigured to the landscape mode, as illustrated in figure 4.

In the detailed illustration of the portable radio communication device 103 in FIG. 2 and FIG. 3, the
20 moveable housing element 109 is a flip. It is anticipated that other equally sufficient embodiments of a moveable housing element 109 may be substituted therefor. These other embodiments include: a clam shell type housing element, a swivel type housing element and a sliding type
25 housing element. By providing a radio communication device that has two distinct sets of user functions to control a plurality of radio communication services, the preferred embodiment creates a simpler user interface for the plurality of radio communication services, than would
30 otherwise be available to a user of a radio communication

device providing a plurality of radio communication services.

5 What is claimed is:

CLAIMS:

1. A radio communication device having radio
circuitry operative in a radio communication system and
5 having user functions for controlling the radio
communication device, the radio communication device
having a first housing element and a second housing
element wherein said first housing element is moveable
between a first position and a second position and a
10 portion of the radio circuitry is disposed within said
second housing element, said radio communication
device comprising:
a first set of the user functions for controlling the
radio communication device;
15 a second set of the user functions for controlling the
radio communication device; and
a switch responsive to the position of said first
housing element for switching between the first set of
user functions and the second set of user functions.

2. The radio communication device of claim 1 wherein said first housing element is a flip and the flip is flipped from a closed position to an opened position.

5

3. The radio communication device of claim 1 wherein the user functions are comprised of radiotelephone functions and messaging functions, the first set of user functions includes limited radiotelephone functions, the second set of user functions includes advanced radiotelephone functions and messaging functions.

10

4. A radio communication device having radio circuitry disposed therein and a plurality of user functions, the radio communication device comprising:

5 a body housing element having at least a portion of the radio circuitry disposed therein;

a moveable housing element coupled to the body housing element and moveable between at least a first position and a second position;

10 a touch screen display having a user data area for entering user data and having a data display area for displaying display data, the touch screen display disposed within the body housing element of the radio communication device, at least a first portion of the touch screen display exposed on a first side of the body housing element
15 such that when the moveable housing element is in the second position, the moveable housing element covers at least a second portion of the touch screen display; and

a switch, responsive to the moveable housing element moving to the first position, for switching between a first set of user functions
20 and a second set of user functions.

5 5. The radio communication device in accordance with claim 4 wherein the user functions includes radiotelephone functions and messaging functions, the first set of user functions includes only radiotelephone functions and the second set of user functions includes radiotelephone functions and messaging functions.

10 6. The radio communication device in accordance with claim 5 further comprising a plurality of display arrangements for arranging the data display area and the user data area, all radiotelephone functions have a corresponding radiotelephone display arrangement that includes orienting the data display area and the user data area in a portrait mode, all messaging functions have a corresponding messaging display arrangement that includes orienting the data display area and the user data area in a landscape mode.

15 7. The radio communication device of claim 4 further comprising:

20 a keypad disposed in the moveable housing element, the keypad including at least a first key, the first key disposed within the moveable housing element and having a first portion exposed on a first side of the moveable housing element and a second portion exposed on a second side of the moveable housing element, such that when the moveable housing element is in the second position, the first portion of the first key and the first side of the moveable housing element is available to a user and when the user depresses the first portion of the first key, the second portion of the first key provides a pressure against the touch screen display and activating the touch screen display.

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8. The radio communication device of claim 7 further comprises:
a plurality of keys contained in the keypad;
a plurality of user data sub-areas in the user data area of the
touch screen display corresponding to the plurality of keys, such
5 that when a first of the plurality of keys is depressed by the user, a
corresponding user data sub-area is activated.

9. The radio communication device of claim 8 further comprises:
a plurality of display arrangements for arranging multiple
10 configurations of the data display area and the user data area when
the moveable housing element is in the first position a first
configuration includes a user data area having a plurality of user
data sub-areas for direct activation by a user of the touch screen
display.



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Claims searched: 1 to 9

Examiner: Peter Easterfield
Date of search: 15 April 1996

Patents Act 1977
Search Report under Section 17

Databases searched:

UK Patent Office collections, including GB, EP, WO & US patent specifications, in:

UK Cl (Ed.O): H3Q (QACX); H4J (JK); H4K (KFH); H4L (LECX)

Int Cl (Ed.6): H04B 1/08, 1/38; H04M 1/02, 1/03, 1/60, 1/62, 1/72

Other: Online: WPI, JAPIO, CLAIMS

Documents considered to be relevant:

Category	Identity of document and relevant passage	Relevant to claims
P,X	GB 2291560 A (MOTOROLA)	1,2,4,7,8
X	EP 0472361 A2 (NOKIA)	1,2
X	WO 94/13088 A1 (SONY)	1,2,3

X	Document indicating lack of novelty or inventive step	A	Document indicating technological background and/or state of the art.
Y	Document indicating lack of inventive step if combined with one or more other documents of same category.	P	Document published on or after the declared priority date but before the filing date of this invention.
&	Member of the same patent family	E	Patent document published on or after, but with priority date earlier than, the filing date of this application.